

**From:** Robert Mellor  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 8:10pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Your Honor,

As a computer fanatic, student, and professional, I have watched Microsoft's practices with interest over the years. In 1995, Netscape was the superior browser and held the lion's share of the browser market. I feel that it is still the superior browser, but do to some shady tricks and arm-twisting by Microsoft, the market share has been reversed. As the complaint states, this is because Netscape and its support for applications that are not OS (operating system) dependant could threaten Microsoft's monopoly hold on the operating systems market. Operating systems like Linux Red Hat and Apple could actually gain a respectable share of the market, if not an even one.

I actually like a lot of the products that Microsoft puts out. But I have watched other products that I like as well become victims of (what I believe to be) illegal contractual arm-twisting to prevent manufacturers of hardware from offering any "rival" software. I hope that you will be able to do something about this injustice, as this country became great on the concept of competition. The industry as a whole would progress at a substantially increased rate, and consumers would also benefit from competitive pricing and an increased number of choices. I hope that you can reach a decision that will strengthen this country's historical commitment to fair and open market competition, something that this proposed settlement does not accomplish.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion,  
Robert H. Mellor, II

Information System Support Coordinator  
CHEP  
Computer Network Systems Technology Student at ITT Technical Institute  
Graduating June, 2002